

Presentation 18 – William Goldberg

Gulf War Update



William J. Goldberg PhD
Portfolio Manager
Gulf War
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs



Gulf War Update

- Topics
 - FY04 RFA
 - FY05 RFA
 - Merit Review process
 - Gulf War portfolio management
 - Some ideas




FY 2004 RFA




FY 2004 RFA

- 69 LOIs submitted
- 49 Proposals submitted (~ 71%)
- Review conducted in September 2004
- Funding in FY 2005 (on or after October 1, 2004)




FY 2005 RFA




FY 2005 RFA

- Areas of interest include studies that have the potential to make significant progress in understanding and treating Gulf War-related conditions
 - > Epidemiologic
 - > Clinical
 - > Laboratory
- Proposals which focus on psychological stress or psychiatric conditions, such as PTSD, will not be considered under this RFA.



FY 2005 RFA

- Notification of intent to submit
 - > 67 notifications received
- 44 Proposals submitted (~ 66%)
- Proposals assigned to 1 of 2 Subcommittees
- Review scheduled for Sept. 16 and Sept. 30
- Funding in FY 2006
 - > Review of compliance documentation (IRB, IACUC, etc.) must be completed prior to release of funds
 - > Earliest start date October 1, 2005



Research Focus of Submitted Proposals

- Brain and Nervous System Function 15
- Chemical Weapons 2
- Exposures (Non-Infectious) 2
- Pyridostigmine Bromide 6
- Immune Function and Infectious Diseases 5
- Symptoms and General Health 14



Project Focus of Submitted Proposals

- **Diagnosis** 9
 - Biomarkers, genomics, etc.
- **Exposure** 7
 - PB, sarin, particulates, etc.
- **Symptoms** 22
- **Treatment** 6
 - massage, IBS, pain, gene therapy



Merit Review Process

- Notification of intent to submit
- Administrative check of proposals received
- Review and assignment to review panels
 - Evaluation of specific expertise needed for review
- Recruitment of reviewers (2-3 per proposal)
- Written reviews submitted in advance
- Discussion of each proposal at review meeting
- Summary Statement written at meeting



Review Criteria (written comments and discussion)

- **Significance**
- **Approach**
 - Strengths and weaknesses
- **Feasibility**
- **Responsiveness to the RFA**
- **Relevance to Gulf War veterans' illnesses**
- **Ethical and safety issues**
- **Budget**



Gulf War Research Portfolio



Portfolio Management

- Dr. William J. Goldberg was appointed as portfolio manager in June 2005
 - 7 years experience as Portfolio Manager for Neurological and Sensory Disorders Research Portfolio
 - 15+ Years research experience in ischemia, stroke, spinal cord injury, and brain tumor (glioblastoma) growth and migration
 - Also appointed as the Designated Federal Official for the RAC-WGVI



FY 2006 Portfolio

- 35 Ongoing projects From 2005 GW Portfolio
 - \$ 10.1 Million
- All projects will be reviewed for continued inclusion in the Gulf War research portfolio
- Projects from the FY 2005 RFA and other solicitations will begin funding on or after October 1, 2005
 - Number and cost will depend on the scientific quality and relevance of submitted proposals to GWVI



New Initiatives

- Gulf War Treatment Research Center RFA
 - RFA announced in 2006
 - Review of proposals in 2006
 - Funding of approved projects in FY 2006
- Gulf War Merit Review RFA
 - RFA announced in FY 2006
 - Review of proposals in August or September 2006
 - Funding of approved projects to begin on or after October 1, 2006

Gulf War Update



William J. Goldberg PhD
Portfolio Manager
Gulf War Research
Veterans Health Administration
Department of Veterans Affairs



Some Ideas

- Potential mechanisms to expand the portfolio
 - Better communication of RFA announcements
 - Better-focused RFAs
 - One dilemma
 - ✓ Too narrow RFA
 - Not enough applications
 - ✓ To broad RFA
 - Perhaps do not suit purpose



Portfolio Expansion

- Potential mechanisms to expand the portfolio
 - Partnership with NIH
 - Partnership with pharmaceutical industry
 - ✓ Fibromyalgia
 - ✓ Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
 - ✓ Irritable Bowel Syndrome
 - Partnership with DoD